viz. edible oil, spices and other crops that are grown in that region.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Oranges are also important. Please clear it. Oranges grow there in abundance.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Yes, Sir. That is what I have said. This is meant for oranges. Oranges are taken care of by another unit also. So, we would like to augment this Centre to include other crops also.

He has asked a specific question regarding re-location. As soon as the Maharashtra Government fulfills the commitment, we will re-locate it.

Claims of Bhopal Gas Victims

*396. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final settlement of the claims of Bhopal gas victims has since been reached with the Union Carbide:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have also released some funds for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the discontentment prevailing amongst the victims regarding inadequate compensation; and

(f) if so, the reaction there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) *and* (b). A sum of 470 million US Dollars was ordered by the Supreme Court as compensation in its judgment dt. 14/15.2.1989. This amount was deposited by Union Carbide Limited (UCIL) and Union Carbide Corporation (UCC). Supreme Court in its judgment dt. 3.10.1991 has upheld this settlement. In addition, immunity against criminal prosecution granted in judgment dated 14/15.2.1989 has been revoked.

(c) *and* (d). The Union of India have released the following amounts for the relief and rehabilitation of the Bhopal Gas victims:-

1. Rs. 101 crores immediately after the disaster for relief and rehabilitation which included measures for immediate medical aid and establishment of special medical facilities, provision of vocational training, financial assistance to the affected persons, etc.

2. Rs. 7.14 crores paid as Interim Relief to the specific categories of victims on the directions of the Supreme Court.

3. Rs. 310.30 crores for payment as Interim Relief @ 200/- per month the 5 lakh residents of the 36 severely affected municipal wards of Bhopal.

4. A sum of Rs. 36.67 crores to the Government of Madhya Pradesh as its share for implementation of the Action Plan with an outlay of Rs. 163.10 crores which includes economic, social and environmental rehabilitation as well as provision for medical facilities.

(e) *and* (f). No information on the inadequacy of compensation has been received by the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister the extent to which the progress has been made on the Supreme Court's instructions to the Central Government and the State Government in connection with starting the adjudication process of settlement of at least 50 claims of compensation of the Bhopal Gas victims by 3 February, 1992 ? Were these instructions issued or not?

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: After the judgment of the Supreme Court in 1989, a settlement was reached for 470 million US Dollars to be deposited in the Reserve Bank; and this settlement was upheld by the Supreme Court in the month of October 1991; and they had given time of 120 days to start adjudication process. It was started in Bhopal by the Welfare Commissioner.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government is doing nothing to settle the claims of the gas victims, to provide medicines and employment to them. In the light of these circumstances is the Centre Government sending a high-level committee there? If there is no such provision, the Government should kindly arrange to send a high-level committee there.

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Already the Government had sanctioned about Rs. 101 crores as immediate relief in 1984 itself. After that, in 1989-90, we had sanctioned about Rs. 310 crores as interim relief for the victims. After the Supreme Court judgment, we had released about Rs. 7 crores. The action plan was prepared by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Government of India had given 75 per cent of it.

The socio-economic environment plan was prepared and the Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing it seriously.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the aims of setting up the Bhopal Gas Commission and the number of cases heard by it till date and the number of cases adjudicated and the amount of expenditure incurred on this Commission ? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Actually, the adjudication started on 3rd February this year. Five courts we have set up and the Welfare Commissioner has started hearing cases. As you all know, the court will take time; we cannot do it just in one day. But we have already kept Rs. 1400 crores in the Reserve Bank of India; and we have given enough infrastructural facilities to the Madhya Pradesh Government to do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: The Gas Commission was set up by you. How much expenditure was incurred on it and how many castes were decided?

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: The Welfare Commissioner has sent notices to different victims; and they are examining them.

MR. SPEAKER: They had started it in February; and they are now processing them.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHAR-

AYA: It has been said in the answer that according to the Supreme Court verdict immunity against criminal prosecution granted in judgment dated 14/15.2.1989 has been revoked. This is very important in view of the fact that amount and the terms of the compensation given by the Supreme Court judgment are considered to be widely unsatisfactory by the victims. So, in view of this, for the establishment of the Union Carbide liability and for imposing punitive and deterrent fine on the UCC and such other dealers of death, I would like to know through you whether Government would set up a prosecution cell for handling efficiently and effectively criminal proceedings against UCC.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: After the settlement in 1989, the Supreme Court had upheld the settlement in October last year. After that, no discontentment report we have received so far; and we are not thinking on the lines of prosecuting anyone else further.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: The Supreme Court itself has said it is revoked. You can take up the cases and help the people.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: The CBI has completed investigating these cases.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: The Bhopol Gas tragedy has assumed such alarming proportions that besides the identified victim wards in Bhopal city, the entire city is in the grip of it. The State Government has requested that there should be some arrangements for their rehabilitation and help also. Keeping this development in mind the Central Government considering to include the remaining wards in the list of affected wards and extend help to then?

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: The Commission has allotted Rs. 36 crores or providing relief to the victims and the amount has already been deposited in the Reserve Bank. The Welfare Commissioner has already started the process of adjudication. The infrastructure and facilities are already available. There is no dearth of facilities. It is for the Madhya Pradesh Government to decide; all the powers have been given to them. We request the hon. Members to go to Madhya Pradesh, sit with the Government and expedite the process.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the adjudication of the compensation cases in the courts of the Commissioners in Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal. The Government of India, that is, the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers had to issue the guidelines. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to form us when the guidelines will be issued so that the compensation cases can be heard expeditiously?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: It is a court and the Welfare Commissioner has to decide it.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The guidelines have to be isued by the Government of India. The Finance Minister has to issue the guidelines as to what should be the methodology to decide the compensation cases.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Do not corner him like that. This Government will never work.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: The Welfare Commissioner is equivalent to a High Court Judge and we are formulating the guidelines, that a compensation of Rs. 4 lakhs for injuries of utmost severity be given to serious are under consideration and Rs. 1 to 3 lakhs for death etc.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The hon. Minister has to issue them. The cases have not been decided upon only because the guidelines have not been issued by the Government of India. The Finance Minister

and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has to issue the guidelines.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: We are examining it and we will send them as soon as possible.

SHRI RAM NAIK: This is how the Government is working.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: The hon. Minister has said that an amount of Rs. 36.67 crores was paid to the Madhya Pradesh Government for economic, social and environmental rehabilitation.

Will the hon. Minister clarify whether the compensation is only for the victims or the Central Government or the State Governments will spend some money for creating the rehabilitation facilities? Is it the policy of the Government to deduct such money from the compensation, or will they bear the cost of such such facilities?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: The compensation is only for the victims. The money is available. It is for them to pay the compensation.

Central Administrative Tribunal

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*398. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal to the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) (a) and (b). There is no proposal to extend the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal to Public Sector Banks.

(c) In view of the large number of cases at present being handled by Central Administrative Tribunal, it is not in a position to take up additional work.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: There are a large number of cases pending in the labour courts and so a large number or workers are suffering. There are a lot of problems because fo the pendency of these cases. Does the Government propose to constitute a national industrial tribunal with the powers of a High Court? Is the Government thinking of it ?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, already these Administrative Tribunals have the powers of the High Court. And they have got branches in every State. Therefore, I do not think it is necessary to have another branch for that.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Sir, the Minister has given in his answer that a large number of cases are being handled by the Central Administrative Tribunal. And particularity, a large number of cases pertaining to public sector banks are pending with the other Tribunals or with other jurisdiction areas. I want to know whether the Government has any methodology to speed up these cases.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that there is no proposal or no request either from the management of the public sector banks or from the unions of the public sector banks for extending the jurisdiction of this Tribunal to banks also. Therefore, I do not think there is any need for that.